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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

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<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the ___ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
SANDING APPARATUS STAND, METHOD AND SYSTEM					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
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<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.				FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)	
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The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
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Respectfully submitted,

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313-885-1500

Date

2/17/04

REGISTRATION NO.
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SANDING APPARATUS STAND, METHOD AND SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a sanding apparatus stand, and more particularly to a stand for lifting and supporting a sanding apparatus above a working surface.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is known in the art relating to sanders that it is difficult to change a sanding pad or abrasive paper located underneath a work end of a sander because it is necessary to turn the work end at least onto its side to access the pad/paper. The sanding apparatus is both heavy and bulky, which together hinder an operator from easily turning the sander over.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a sanding apparatus stand for a sanding apparatus that facilitates an operator in accessing the underside of a work end of a sanding apparatus to change a sanding pad/paper located on the bottom of the work end.

A sanding apparatus stand in accordance with the present invention includes two elongated engagement members arranged generally parallel to

each other. A leg extends downwardly in a generally perpendicular fashion from each of the engagement members. Each leg is fixedly connected, such as by welding, to its corresponding engagement member at a similar point between the ends of the engagement member. A brace such as an elongated cross pipe may be fixedly connected, such as by welding, to lower ends of the legs to strengthen the stand. The brace extends between the legs and may also extend beyond the area between the legs. A resilient covering such as rubber tubing covers the outer surfaces of the brace that extend beyond the area between the legs. The legs and brace together function as a fulcrum.

In a specific embodiment, the engagement members may be constructed of steel. Further, corresponding ends of the engagement members may be bent into a curved shape similar to the handle end of a walking cane. The curved ends help to prevent scratching when the ends of the engagement members contact a working surface. These curved ends may also be covered with nylon or rubber tubing to further protect the working surface from being scratched. Furthermore, the cross pipe may be approximately 14 inches in length.

In order for an operator to use the stand with a sanding apparatus, the sanding apparatus includes complimentary connectors/receivers, herein by example two hollow receiving pipes, fixedly connected to an upper surface of a work end of the sanding apparatus. The sanding apparatus also

includes a handle end operatively connected to the work end. In the illustrated embodiment, the inner diameters of the receiving pipes are larger than the diameters of the engagement members. The receiving pipes are mounted generally parallel to each other and at a distance from each other equal to the distance between the engagement members of the stand. The receiving pipes receive corresponding ends of the engagement members to engage the sanding apparatus with the stand. When the sanding apparatus is engaged with the stand, the stand is positioned opposite of the handle end of the sander.

Once the engagement members are inserted into the receiving pipes to engage the stand with the sanding apparatus, the operator lifts up on the handle end of the sander. This forces the cross pipe against the working surface and friction between the resilient covering of the cross pipe and the working surface prevents the stand from moving. The sander and engaged stand rotate about the cross pipe. The operator continues to lift up on the handle end of the sander until the free ends of the engagement members contact and rest against the working surface. In this position, the center of gravity of the system is located at a point between the cross pipe and the resting ends of the engagement members such that the sander is stably supported and held above the working surface. The operator may then safely and easily change the abrasive pad attached on the underside of the work end of the sander.

After attaching a new abrasive pad to the sander, the operator then pulls down on the handle end to bring the sander back down to the working surface. The operator may then disengage the stand from the sander and store the stand until the abrasive pad needs to be changed again.

These and other features and advantages of the invention will be more fully understood from the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a work end of a sanding apparatus including receivers for receiving a sanding apparatus stand in accordance with the present invention; and

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a sanding apparatus stand in accordance with the present invention engaged with the work end of a sanding apparatus.

Although the invention has been described by reference to a specific embodiment, it should be understood that numerous changes may be made within the spirit and scope of the inventive concepts described. Accordingly, it is intended that the invention not be limited to the described embodiment,

but that it have the full scope defined by the language of the following claims.

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